

Message Text

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ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3949
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UNCLAS CARACAS 04683

FOR: STATE FOR CU/ARA; USIA FOR WILLIAM RODGERS/ILA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OEXC VE

SUBJECT: SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM OF VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT.

PRESIDENT CARLOS ANDRES PEREZ ANNOUNCED MAY 21 IN SPEECH TO CONSEJO SIDERURGICO NACIONAL AN "EXTRAORDINARY PLAN" OF THE GOVERNMENT TO SEND TO FOREIGN UNIVERSITIES THOUSANDS OF VENEZUELAN PROFESSIONALS AND STUDENTS WHO WOULD SPECIALIZE IN THREE AREAS: STEEL, OIL AND PETROCHEMISTRY. HE ANNOUNCED THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD TAKE DIPLOMATIC STEPS TO ACQUIRE THE LARGEST POSSIBLE NUMBER OF PLACES IN THOSE UNIVERSITIES IN WHICH THE VENEZUELAN PROFESSIONALS AND STUDENTS COULD ACQUIRE THE INDISPENSABLE KNOWLEDGE TO PLACE IN VENEZUELAN HANDS THE EXPLOITATION OF THEIR OWN NATURAL RESOURCES. (TEXT OF SPEECH BEING POUCHED) THE VENEZUELAN STUDYING ABROAD IN THIS CONNECTION WILL HAVE SCHOLARSHIPS FROM THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT

POST HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY CABLED ALL VENEZUELAN EMBASSIES TO START DISCUSSIONS WITH THEIR HOST GOVERNMENT ON VENEZUELAN DESIRE TO SECURE MANY PLACES IN UNIVERSITIES, THAT OFFER COURSES IN THE FIELDS MENTIONED ABOVE, PRESIDENT ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS WOULD APPROVE CRITERIA FOR THE GRANTING OF THE SCHOLARSHIPS ON MAY 28. PURPOSE OF THE SCHOLARSHIP PLAN IS TO HASTEN DAY WHEN VENEZUELA IS FREE OF DEPENDENCE ON OUTSIDERS IN THREE FIELDS SPECIFIED. EMBASSY BELIEVES DEPARTMENT WILL SHARE ENTHUSIASMS FOR US COOPERATION IN THIS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM. EMBASSY HOPES THAT SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF VENEZUELAN PARTICIPATING IN THIS PLAN WILL ATTEND

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AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES, FOR OBVIOUS REASONS. DEPARTMENT'S

COMMENTS WELCOME.
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